

Today, as a final degradation, many spinning wheels have been moved out of doors, to be hung in front of the country shops, where they serve as the stop-sign for the motorist hunting for antiques.

Though the spinning wheels might be treated in a frivolous manner, the worthy product they once produced was not set aside with equal lightness. Thriftiness, one of the primary virtues, was closely seconded by another equally respected—viz. "taking thought for the morrow." As such things were taken very seriously, her Lancaster County neighbors found Phebe Earle Gibbons very irritating because in 1867 she could write with faint amusement: "We no longer make linen; but I have heard of one Dutch girl who had a good supply of domestic linen made into shirts and trousers for the future spouse whose 'fair Proportions' she had not yet seen."

